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OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COORDINATOR
FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND SUPPORT

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WASHINGTON DC 20301-1510



07 DEC 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (IL&E)
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE
AIR FORCE (MRAI&E)

SUBJECT: Drug Screen Testing Levels for Opiates

The military drug testing laboratories use initial and confirmatory test levels that are based on the best technical information and analytical methodology available. On January 1, 1992, the confirmation levels for morphine and codeine were reduced from 4,000 and 2,000 ng/ml, respectively, to 300 ng/ml for either drug. That change also required the implementation of a medical review process for all reports of opiate positive results from drug testing.

Current information and recent experience indicate that additional procedures are needed to ensure no action is taken on opiate positive results which potentially could result from the ingestion of legitimate food materials. Upon the advice of the Biochemical Testing Advisory Committee, the testing levels for morphine and codeine are being adjusted and, in addition, a testing level is being established for 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM), a metabolite specific for heroin. All specimens positive for morphine will be tested for 6-MAM.

The following testing (cut-off) levels for opiates are effective April 1, 1994:

Drug	Initial Test	Confirmation Test
Morphine	300 ng/ml*	4000 ng/ml
Codeine	300 ng/ml*	2000 ng/ml
6-monoacetylmorphine	None	10 ng/ml

* The 300 ng/ml initial test cut-off level is retained until a new screening reagent can be obtained that has a cutoff of 2000 ng/ml. At the time the new kit is available for use, the initial test level will be changed to 2000 ng/ml for both morphine and codeine.



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Reporting of opiate results shall be as follows:

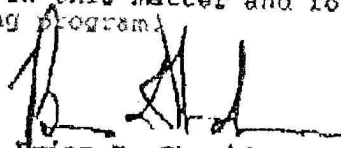
a. Any specimen containing 6-monoacetylmorphine at or above the confirmation cut-off shall be reported as "HEROIN" without regard to morphine or codeine confirmation concentrations.

b. Morphine at or above the confirmation cut-off shall be reported as "morphine".

c. Codeine at or above the confirmation cut-off shall be reported as "codeine".

The April 1, 1994 effective date will allow sufficient time for the laboratories to implement appropriate changes in their laboratory procedures. The changes are within the scientific capability of the confirmation procedures.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting CAPT Hilderbrand at commercial (703) 693-1917 or DSN 223-1917. Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for your support of the military drug testing program.



Brian H. Sheridan
Acting DoD Coordinator for
Drug Enforcement Policy and Support